

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 to 7 (cancelled)

Claim 8 (new) A process for obtaining a substance with growth promoting activity, comprising isolating perivitelline fluid from a fertilized egg of a horseshoe crab.

Claim 9 (new) The process as claimed in claim 8, wherein the perivitelline fluid is isolated from a fertilized egg of an Indian horseshoe crab.

Claim 10 (new) The process as claimed in claim 8, wherein the perivitelline fluid is isolated aseptically and then aliquoted and stored.

Claim 11 (new) The process as claimed in claim 10, wherein the isolated and aliquoted perivitelline fluid is stored at a temperature of about -20°C.

Claim 12 (new) A process for proliferating cells, comprising the steps of:

- i) isolating perivitelline fluid from a fertilized egg of a horseshoe crab; and
- ii) growing the cells in the presence of the isolated perivitelline fluid.

Claim 13 (new) The process as claimed in claim 12, wherein the cells are rat ascinar cells.

Claim 14 (new) The process as claimed in claim 13, wherein the rat acinar cells are from the AR42J cell line.

Claim 15 (new) The process as claimed in claim 14, wherein the cells are grown in Dulbecco's modified minimum essential medium supplemented with 10% FCS.

Claim 16 (new) The process as claimed in claim 12, further comprising measuring an increase in population of the cells.

Claim 17 (new) The process as claimed in claim 12, wherein the horseshoe crab is an Indian horseshoe crab.